



Senate Majority Office

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## **Oregon Senate Supports Improvements for “Orphan Highways”**

*Jurisdictional Transfer Advisory Committee will make recommendations to the legislature*

**SALEM, Ore.** - Today the Oregon Senate passed [House Bill 2793](#), which will form the Jurisdictional Transfer Advisory Committee to start the development of a statewide plan to improve and invest in ‘Orphan Highways’.

Oregon has several important roads that were initially created for different reasons than they are used for now. Some were originally built as highways to connect rural areas to markets, but over time, communities developed around them. While local governments and the Oregon Department of Transportation have worked on transferring responsibilities from the state to local jurisdictions, there hasn't been a systematic process established. The transfer process can be complicated, because there is often a need to make costly upgrades and improvements before a transfer.

Jurisdictional Transfer Advisory Committee formed by HB 2793 will make recommendations on which roadways to transfer from the state to local governments and how to do it effectively and efficiently.

“These neglected roads not only create hazards and safety risks for drivers, pedestrians, and cyclists but also limit the overall connectivity and accessibility of our communities,” said **Senator Aaron Woods (D - Wilsonville)**, who carried the bill on the Senate floor. “It is our responsibility to prioritize the upkeep and improvement of our road networks, ensuring the safety, mobility, and well-being of all individuals to foster a vibrant and connected Oregon.”

“By failing to maintain and address the needs of ‘Orphan Highways’, we undermine the principles of equitable access, efficient transportation and sustainable development that we hold dear,” said **Senator Winsvey Campos (D - Aloha)**. “I am looking forward to the recommendations of the advisory committee and excited to implement a systematic plan to invest in and save these roadways.”

Ensuring effective multimodal infrastructure that supports statewide commerce is part of [Senate Democrats' 2023 Oregon Works agenda](#).

HB 2793 is one of the hundreds of bills that Senate Democrats rescued by negotiating an end to the Senate Republican walkout. Thanks to Senate Democrats showing up, doing their jobs, and delivering results for the people of Oregon, HB 2793 now moves to the Governor's desk for consideration.

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